

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**


<b>Project Title: Wildlife Water Catchment Maintenance Program for 2014.</b>		<b>Project No. 13-219</b>
<b>Region/GMU: GMU 5A, 6A, 7, 9, 22, 23</b>	<b>HPC: Coordinated with Tom Mackin with Flagstaff HPC and Gary Barcom, Payson NRC</b>	
<b>Project Type: Rebuilding and Maintaining Wildlife Waters to assist AZGFD and the FS in supplying dependable water for wildlife</b>		
<b>Project Description: The Arizona Elk Society coordinates with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Coconino and Kaibab national forests to assist the agencies in maintaining water for wildlife. We have accomplished this both by completing maintenance and rebuilds on both AZGFD drinkers and FS wildlife catchments that are in disrepair and hauling water to developments that are in need of water as requested by the area Wildlife Manager.</b>		
<b>Wildlife Species to Benefit: Elk, Mule Deer, Turkey, White-tailed Deer, Black Bear, forest-dwelling neotropical migrant birds, various species of bats, pronghorn, small mammals, and any other wildlife species that use and benefit from available free-standing water</b>		
<b>Possible Funding Partners: Arizona Elk Society, Phoenix Chapter – Safari Club International, Arizona Deer Association, Mule Deer Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation</b>		
<b>Implementation Schedule:</b> <b>Beginning: March 15, 2014</b> <b>Completed: September 30, 2014</b>	<b>NEPA Compliance: (if applicable)</b> <b>Completed: Yes ____ No ____</b> <b>In that the work proposed in this agreement will entail only operational maintenance and water hauling to existing catchments, NEPA is not applicable to this project.</b>	

**PROJECT FUNDING**

<b>SBG Funds Requested: \$ 20,000</b>
<b>Cost Share Funds:</b> At this point in time, the AES has committed \$10,000 for water hauling during this request cycle. In addition, the AES has furnished and maintained a vehicle, equipment and water hauling trailer with an estimated value of \$9,000. The AES also has funded a project manager to oversee the implementation of our water program in a cooperative and efficient manner with an estimated ½ cost of \$4,500. Grant from PHX SCI \$830. We have developed a volunteer program to assist in this program and in 2013 their value of \$9,000 was added to the program. <b>Total Project Costs: \$57,830 in 2014.</b>

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

<b>Applicant: Steve Clark, Executive Director, Arizona Elk Society</b> (please print) <b>Telephone: 602-885-0835</b>	<b>Address: 7558 W. Thunderbird Rd. Ste. 1-465</b> <b>Peoria, AZ 85381</b>
<b>AGFD Contact and Phone No.</b> <b>(If applicant is not AGFD personnel)</b>	

<b>Coordinated with: Arizona Game and Fish Department, Forest Service, Mule Deer Foundation, NWTF, Phx. SCI</b>	<b>Date: On-going beginning in 2014</b>
<b>Applicant's signature:</b> 	<b>Date: 12/10/2013</b>

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**

**Game Branch  
5000 W. Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, AZ**

**WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC?      YES ☐      NO ☐**

**In that this is an emergency request, it was not formally presented to the HPC, however, it was discussed with Tom Mackin as a representative of the Flagstaff HPC and he was supportive of this project. It was also presented at the State HPC meeting and was supported by all the groups.**

**HAS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS? IF SO WAS IT FUNDED?**

This is a continuation of our project submitted, funded and completed in 2013.

**NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

Recent research by the AZGFD has documented widespread use of freestanding water by many wildlife species including both nongame and game animals. In addition, this and other research has failed to document any negative impacts from providing freestanding water to wildlife as had been asserted in the past. The impact of the current decade-long drought is apparent in the drying of naturally-occurring water sources. As an example, on June 29, 2013 a field trip with the Forest Service to examine work projects on the Buck Springs Allotment found most of the springs visited either dry or nearly so. In the experience of a 30-year employee of the FS in that area, he indicated that he had never seen the springs in the conditions that they are. In discussions with Wildlife Managers in Northern Arizona, wildlife are using available water extensively and many of the key wildlife waters are approaching critically low levels and the need for water hauling is urgent.

In May 2013, the AES began to haul water at the request of area Wildlife Managers. Our original intent was to focus on GMUs 7 and 9, however, we have had requests for support from WMs in GMUs 4, 7, 9, and most recently 6. All of these requests are of an emergency basis. The AES employee who does the field work on this project has been hauling daily and still is behind on the requests for water from the Department field staff. In addition, the Forest Service has a number of water developments that were put in place decades ago but have not had funding for O and M in decades and these developments are in various states of disrepair with essentially none of them being self-sufficient to meet the needs of providing water to wildlife.

The AES received a signed copy of the newly completed Memorandum of Understanding with the Kaibab NF, which, in part, authorizes us to begin a maintenance program on FS drinkers.

All of this occurs at a time when the AZGFD program for wildlife waters and other developments has experienced staff reductions. As a result, the demand for expanded AES services in the water program has grown beyond our expectations and will likely continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Each year the AES allocates \$10,000 of our banquet proceeds to help haul water, however, the demand for

(revised 7-02-2007)

services has outstripped this budget. In 2013, we requested and were granted \$7,500 for water program issues, however, this was rapidly used as we hauled daily. In addition, the maintenance of both AZGFD and FS drinkers is substantial as a large backlog exists. Without assistance from AES, it is likely that the urgent need for water in many locations will not be met and the populations of many species will decline. For those species that are hunted, this in turn will have an adverse impact on the AZGFD revenue stream. Further, the public perception of the wildlife management programs of the Department may be damaged.

The attached trip report document provides an example of the type of projects that the AES has conducted in cooperation with the AZGFD. We also attached the Kaibab FS agreement for 27 wildlife waters needed maintenance.

#### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

To continue to assist the AZGFD and the FS with maintenance of existing drinkers to meet the demand for freestanding water for wildlife. We will also be hauling water until the time when (if) rainfall fills the existing waters and hauling is no longer needed. Given the spotty nature of monsoonal rainfall, it is likely that at least some water hauling will be required through most of the summer in some areas. We have an extensive list of water developments from the FS that need to be repaired. Our goal is to start with maintenance and if haul as much water as needed then to move back to repairing and maintaining existing waters to improve their long-term functionality.

#### **PROJECT STRATEGIES:**

The AES has coordinated with the Region II, and IV staff and with the Wildlife Managers in the region to develop a workable approach to providing priority to water hauling tasks and maintaining existing water developments. In addition, we have the same arrangement with the FS for waters on the Kaibab NF and are working to develop the same with the Coconino NF. The AES has Master Memorandums of Agreement with both the AZGFD and with the forests that facilitate this working arrangement. Using these vehicles as a basis for our involvement in wildlife water facility management, we will continue to coordinate with field personnel to ensure our activities are consistent with the priorities of these persons and our efforts provide maximum benefit to wildlife.

#### **PROJECT LOCATION:**

At existing water developments provided by the AZGFD and FS throughout northern Arizona as requested by agency personnel.

#### **LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):**

US Forest Service

#### **IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?**

#### **HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

Vegetation within the area consists of coniferous forests with small inclusions of deciduous species including aspen and maple at higher elevations and, juniper woodlands at lower elevations. In addition, many of the targeted water developments occur in transitional zones between coniferous forests and winter range. All of these water developments provided needed water for a wide variety of wildlife species.

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

As we have in the past, all of these funds will be used directly for the restoring and maintenance of wildlife drinkers and well as provision of freestanding water for wildlife. We will provide funding for the O and M of AES vehicles used solely for the purpose of water hauling and maintenance of existing water developments that are in various states of disrepair. Funding will be used to purchase supplies for fencing, floats, troughs and other drinker materials necessary. In addition, the AES has hired a skilled contractor to do the water hauling and maintenance and these funds will be used to compensate this employee for his services once all AES funds have been expended.

Fencing Material	\$2500
Catchment materials	\$10000 Includes floats, troughs, paint for concrete aprons, patch material, plumbing, fiberglass sealer, concrete tank sealer etc.
Fuel for Truck	\$3000
Contractor	\$4500 20 hours per tank @ \$15 hr = \$9000, ½ paid by grant

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

US Forest Service, AZGFD, Coconino County Sportsmen and Mogollon Sportsmen's Association and private volunteers will assist and cooperate in this project.

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

AZGFD and AES will monitor for project completion.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

N/A.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

Steve Clark, Executive Director, Arizona Elk Society